

Administration Database User Guide

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1. Introduction

What is the Administration Database?

The FMN Administrative Database is a database developed in Microsoft Office Access 2003. It is a relational database, which means that the data is held in a number of linked tables. You only need to enter data once (e.g. school details); you can then associate other data (e.g. student details) with it.

Currently each database is held locally on the Centre Manager's PC and a copy is e-mailed each month to the National Centre. In the future, each database will be linked to the National Centre's server so that returns can be made automatically. There will be two ways in which your FM Centre may be linked to the server. The method to be employed for your FM Centre will depend on your individual requirements.

- The FM Centre's data will be held centrally on a central server. FM Centre
 users will access the database via an internet link. This will require a
 reliable internet connection but has the advantage that it will be possible to
 access your data by more than one user, it will therefore be the preferred
 option for FM Centres with more than one Manager.
- 2. The FM Centre's data will be held locally on the FMC Manager's pc. At the end of each session a copy of the data will be automatically sent to the National Centre's server as a backup and to aide support. This will be the preferred option if your internet connection is not reliable.

The National Team will help you to decide which method best matches your circumstances.

MS Access Database Terminology

The following terms are used to refer to various parts of the database:

Table MS Access is a relational database development tool. This

means that the data is held in a number of tables that are related to each other via common fields. A table is a series of

records of the same type (e.g. a table of students).

Record This is a row in the data table (e.g. John Smith is a student in

the Student table).

Field This is an attribute of the record, equivalent to a column in

the data table (e.g. Student Surname).

Form This is the name used in Access 2003 for a screen used to

display, input and amend data. Most forms in the Administration Database display a single record (e.g. a student's record), but some have sub-forms listing

associated records.

Sub-form A sub-form is a form embedded within another form. It often

displays multiple records relating to the subject of the main form (e.g. the Lessons form has a sub-form that lists all of

the students that attend the selected lesson).

Tabs Where a form contains several sub-forms, tabs may be used

as a means of selecting a sub-form to be displayed.

Primary Key This is the main field used to identify the record. Most of the

records in the Administration database are identified by a

unique sequence number.

The database has been designed to help you to keep records of students, schools/colleges, staff, lessons, examinations and finances, and to perform the common administrative tasks required to manage your FM Centre effectively. It automatically produces reports, faxes and letters that you can use to correspond with Students, Schools/Colleges, Awarding Bodies and your Fund Holder. It can also be used as a basis for mail and email merges that you write yourself.

The database can also help you to keep records of schools and colleges within your catchment area that are not currently participating in the FM network, whom you may want to contact for promotional purposes.

Using a standard database for these purposes ensures consistency between FM Centres in the data gathered and the format of communications, presenting a common national identity for the Further Mathematics Network.

The database also gathers the data that is needed by the National Team for statistical and financial analysis. The amount of data gathered for this purpose has been kept to a minimum, and the process of transferring this data to the National Team has been designed to create as little work as possible for the FMC Manager.

The database has been designed to help you to comply with the legislative requirements associated with the Data Protection Act 1998, and to help you to ensure that the necessary Criminal Records Bureau checks are performed. However, it remains the FM Centre's Fund Holder's responsibility to ensure that all necessary legislative requirements are met.

2. Getting Started

Operating Requirements

In order to use the database effectively you will need:

- Windows XP Professional
- Microsoft Office 2003
- Microsoft Access 2003
- Microsoft Outlook 2003
- Broadband internet connection
- A Personal Computer capable of using this software/internet connection effectively

Where will you keep your database?

You should decide the best place to keep your database. This could be on your lap-top or pc, or on your institution's network. You may wish to discuss this with your IT Support staff.

Installing the Database

The database will be sent to you as a zipped folder attached to an e-mail message.

To install your database:

- 1) Save the zipped file in an appropriate folder.
- 2) Double-click on the zipped folder. This will open a window showing the contents of the folder.
- 3) Select the Extract all Files option from the Folder Tasks section in the top left of the window. This will take you through an Extraction Wizard that extracts the contents of the zipped folder. Progress though the wizard using the Next option, and the Finish option to complete it. You can change the destination folder if you don't want to use the default.

Security settings

The database contains sensitive data and has therefore been password protected. It is accompanied by a security file called FMC_Security.mdw that Access needs to reference in order for this to work. When you un-zipped the database folder this file should have been placed in the same folder as the database.

Perform the following steps to ensure that the security works correctly:

- Open Access (but not the database) and 'join' the new Workgroup by choosing Tools | Security | Workgroup Administrator. Click Join..., browse for FMC_Security.mdw and click OK, and OK again to close the window. Open the database, and log on as: Name: Centre Manager, Password: Centre Manager.
- 2) You should now change your password, by going Tools | Security | User and Group Accounts... and choosing the Change Logon Password tab.

If you want to open a different database you may need to rejoin the default system workgroup by repeating Step 1 above and browsing to the Workgroup file System.mdw which will be typically be found tucked away in a folder called 'C:\Documents and Settings\Owner\Application Data\Microsoft\Access'. If you are having trouble locating this file, try searching for it using the Start | Search facility.

Trouble shooting tip:

The following message is displayed when you try to open the database: "You do not have the necessary permissions to use the '....FM Centre Database.mdb' object. Have your system administrator or the person who created this object establish the appropriate permissions for you."

Occasionally, other activity on your computer may remove you from the FM Centre database security workgroup. Try repeating Step 1 above to rejoin the workgroup FM_Security.mdw. If this does not resolve the problem then contact the National Administrator.

It is recommend that you also password protect your pc, and ensure that you are automatically logged out after a suitable time delay.

Security Warnings

When opening your database you may find that Security Warnings saying 'Unsafe expressions are not blocked' are displayed. These are for your own security but can become a bit of a nuisance. To turn them off, open Access 2003, choose Tools | Macro Security... and set the Security Level to Low. If at any time in the future you need to open a database other than this one, you can raise the Security Level again.

Setting up your Database

To ensure that the main menu is easy to access, even if it is closed or obscured by other windows, we suggest you add a button to one of the Access toolbars as follows:

1) Open the database.

- 2) Go to the drop-down Tools menu and click Customize.
- 3) In the window that appears, select the Commands tab.
- 4) In the left-hand Categories list, scroll down and click on All Forms.
- 5) Now scroll down the right-hand Commands list and select FM Centre Menu. A yellow box will now appear around the text.
- 6) Drag this box up to a convenient location on one of the Access toolbars and let go. A button saying FM Centre Menu will then materialise.
- 7) You can use this button to summon the main menu whenever you need it. However, if you move the database onto another computer, the button won't move with you, so you will have to go through steps 1) to 6) again.

Using your Database

Open the file (e.g. double-click on it) and check that the FM Centre name on the main menu is correct for your Centre.

The database comes with general data such as specifications, modules, exam and Awarding Body information. It also contains your Centre Number and Name, apart from which, all the fields in your data entry forms should be blank.

You can now start adding records to your database.

Data take-on

Whether you are a new centre or one that has been up and running for some time, you will have records of students, staff and lessons that you will need to add to the database.

Since some database tables depend on others, it is important that your data is added in the following order:

- 1. Further Mathematics Centre
- 2. Schools/Colleges
- 3. Venues
- 4. Lessons
- 5. Students

Financial Transactions can be added at any time.

If your existing records are held in MS Excel or MS Word, it may be possible to copy this data to the new database. Several records can be copied across to the database together provided the data is first manipulated into a format that matches the database tables. The National Team will help you with this process. We may also be able to help you to enter data from paper-based records. Please contact the National Administrator to discuss your FM Centre's requirements.

Existing FM Centres should endeavour to add records of <u>all</u> previous years' schools/colleges, students, the modules they have studied, their results and the students' progression after leaving the programme. This will assist in evaluating the effectiveness of the programme.

User testing

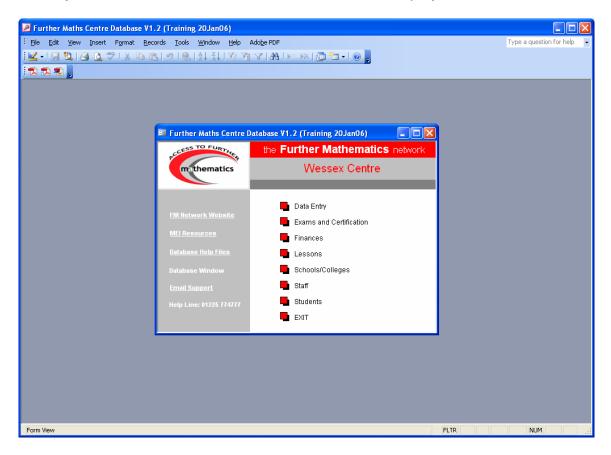
The reports produced by the database have been tested and in many cases actually used, however, we recommend that you check them carefully before issuing them, particularly as the database has only recently been released and is still under development.

Mail Merge Set-up

See Section 7, Mail and E-Mail Merge for information about setting up MS Word to perform a mail merge or e-mail merge.

3. Finding your way around the Database

When you first enter the database the main menu is displayed:



Here is a map of the database menus:

Data Entry

- Further Maths Centre
- All Schools/Colleges
- Current Schools/Colleges
- Venues
- Lessons
- Students
- Financial Transactions
- BACK

Exams and Certification

- Summer...
 - Exam Entry Fax
 - Exam Entry Check
 - o Certification Request

- Exam Result Request
- o BACK
- Winter...
 - o Exam Entry Fax
 - Exam Entry Check
 - o Certification Request
 - o Exam Result Request
 - o BACK
- Centre Exam Timetable
- Full Exam Timetable
- Awarding Body Contacts
- BACK

Finances

- Invoices (Autumn)
- Invoice Letter (Autumn)
- Invoices (Spring)
- Invoice Letter (Spring)
- Financial Transactions by Month
- Financial Account Summary
- BACK

Lessons

- Lesson List
- Timetable (Schools/Colleges)
- Timetable (Students)
- Revision Day Fax
- One-Off Lesson Fax
- Venues
- BACK

Schools/Colleges

- Current
- Registered
- Potential
- Withdrawn
- BACK

Staff

- Staff List
- Record Check
- BACK

Students

- Students by School/College
- E-mail list...
 - o By Lesson
 - o By Current Module
 - o By School/College
 - o By Year

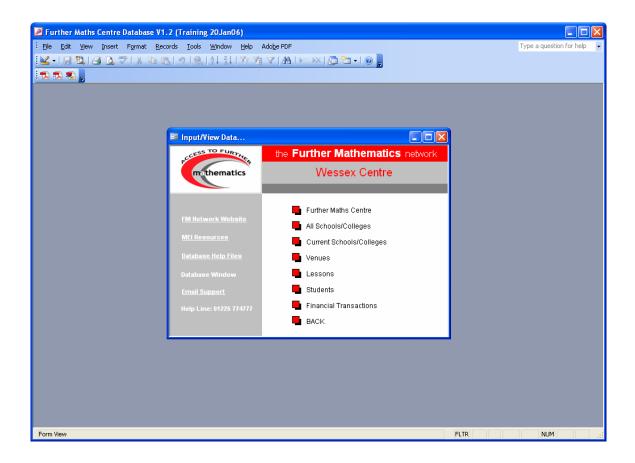
- o BACK
- Lesson Timetable
- Module Activity
- Exam Entry Checks...
 - o Summer Exam Entry Check
 - Winter Exam Entry Check
 - o BACK
- Record Check
- Student Intentions

EXIT

These options are described in more detail later.

4. Maintaining Records

To add, amend or delete records select the 'Data Entry' option from the main menu. The Data Entry menu is then displayed:

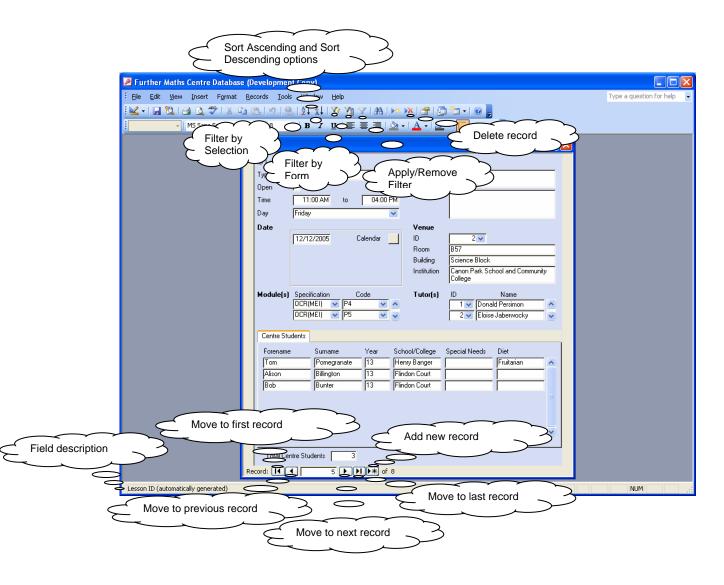


Select the type of record you want to work on. Note that changes you make in one form (e.g. to school details) are automatically reflected in all other forms that access that data.

A form will be displayed showing the first record of that type.

Selecting records

The following example shows how to use the features of MS Access to select the record(s) you want to work with.



There a several different ways in which you can find a particular record or set of records:

Arrow Keys

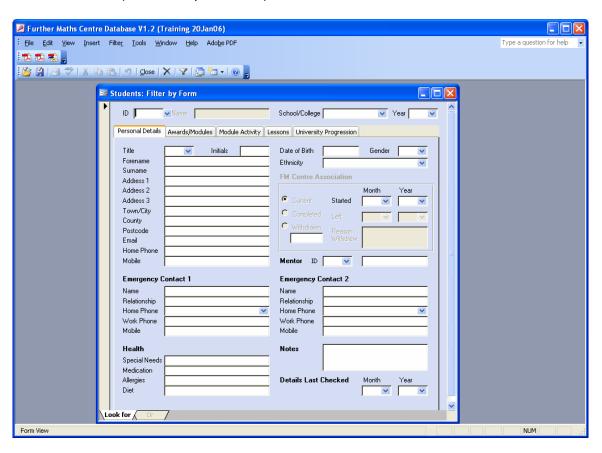
Use the right and left arrows at the bottom of the screen to move through the table (see example above).

Filter by Selection.

This is helpful if you want to select a series of records with the same value in a given field (i.e. all Current School/Colleges with Type = Comprehensive). Select a record that has the value you want. Place the cursor in the relevant field and click on the Filter by Selection icon in the Access Toolbar (see example above). The database will find all matching records; you can move through them using the left and right arrow buttons at the bottom of the screen. To return to the full set of records click on the Remove Filter icon in the Access Toolbar (see example above).

Filter by form

This is a powerful search tool that enables you to define the criteria for your record search. To use it, select the Filter by Form icon from the Access Toolbar and complete the form with your search criteria, as in the example below, then select the Apply Filter icon from the Access Toolbar. The database will find all matching records; you can move through them using the left and right arrow buttons at the bottom of the screen. To return to the full set of records click on the Remove Filter icon in the Access Toolbar (see example above).



Adding new records

To add a new record open the relevant form and select the button labeled with a right arrow and an asterisk at the bottom of the form, as shown in the example above. This will display a blank record for you to complete with the relevant details.

Deleting records

To delete a record place the cursor in one of the record fields, and select the Delete Record icon in the Access Tool Bar.

To delete a record within a sub-form, place the cursor in the record to be deleted before clicking on the Delete Record icon.

A warning message is displayed before the record is deleted.

Sorting records

You can also use Sort Ascending and Sort Descending options in the Access Toolbar (see example above) to change the order in which records appear as you move through them in a form, or in a report.

What is this field for?

When you move the cursor to a field, a full description of that field will be displayed in the bottom left corner of the screen (as shown above). The meaning of most of the fields should be intuitive; those that are less obvious are described in more detail in the relevant section below.

Data provided by the National Centre

Your database will include the following data tables that have been set up for you by the National Team:

- Modules (including details of forthcoming examinations)
- Awarding Bodies
- Awards
- LEAs

From time to time these tables will be updated by the National Centre. You may be able to view this data but the database will not allow you to update it.

Module Data

This data is can be viewed via the Module report described later.

Awards and Specification Data

Contact details for the four main specifications can be viewed by running the Awarding Body Contacts report (see later).

The database also contains details of relevant awards offered for by each Awarding Body. This data is used to determine the target award options available in the Student form Awards/Modules tab.

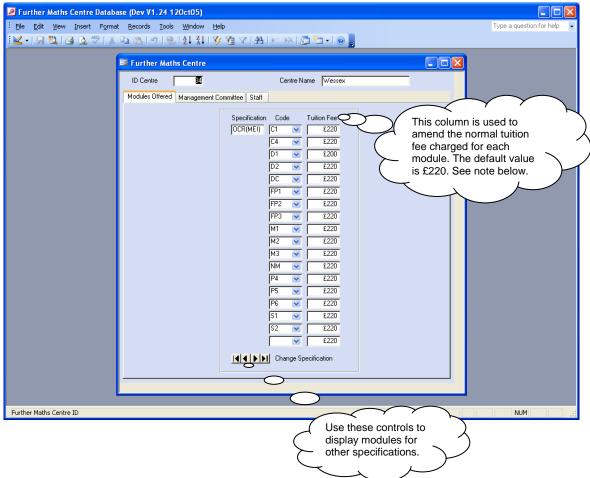
LEAs

A list of all LEAs can be displayed in the Details tab of the Schools/Colleges form (either All School/Colleges form or Current Schools/College form).

Maintaining your Further Mathematics Centre record

Your Further Maths Centre has its own form in which to maintain the Modules Offered, contact details for the Management Committee and records of the Centre's Staff.

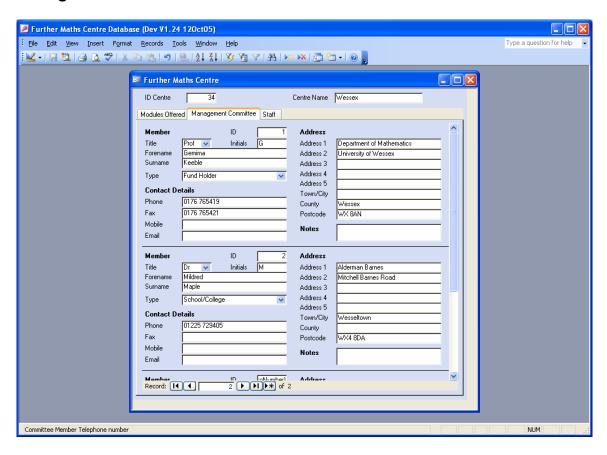
Modules Offered



Tuition Fees

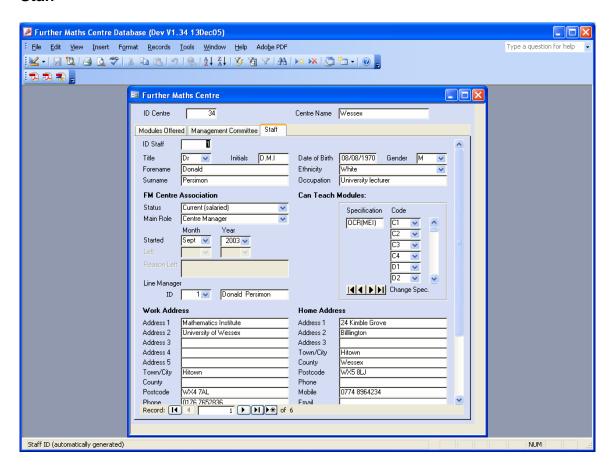
You should use this field to set the fees that your Centre will normally charge for each module. If you want to vary the fee charged for a particular student, you can do so by entering an appropriate weighting in the Module Activity tab of the Students form.

Management Committee

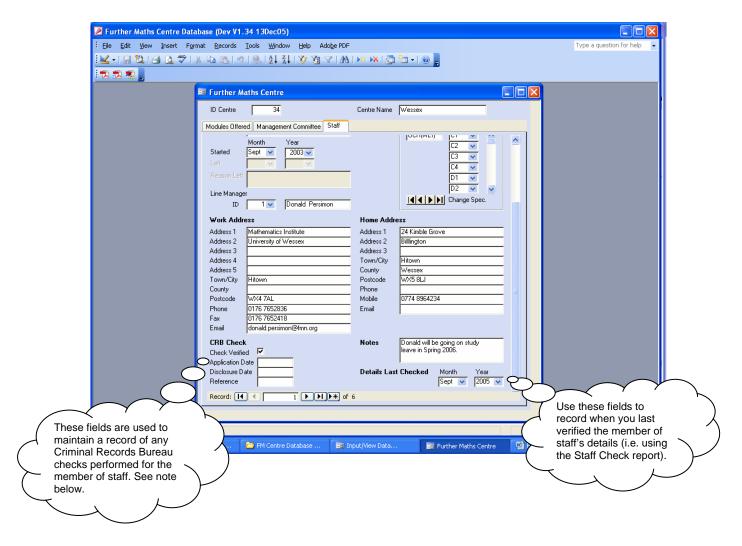


Scroll down to view details further records.

Staff



Further details can be displayed by scrolling down the page.



Criminal Records Bureau Checks

You must ensure that all teaching staff, including mentors and any other staff that have contact with minors have a current valid Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) check. Details of the check should be recorded on this form.

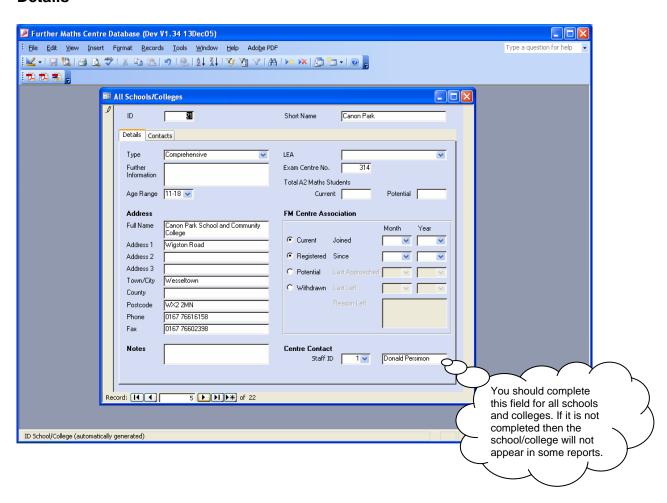
If the member of staff has had a check performed by another institution within the last 12 months then it may not be necessary for you to apply for a further check; instead you may be able to verify the results with the institution that originally applied for the check using 'portability' (refer to the FMC Managers' FAQs on www.fmnetwork.org.uk for further information). In this case you should enter a tick in the Check Verified field, and complete the three further CRB fields with the details provided by the institution.

If you are arranging the check yourself, enter the date that you applied for the check in the Application Date. When you receive the results of the check you should complete the Disclosure Date and Reference fields.

Maintaining All Schools/Colleges records

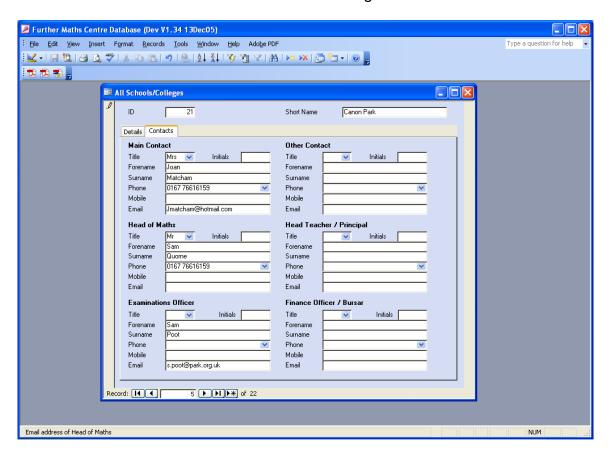
This form allows you to maintain records of all schools/colleges including those currently being tutored through the Further Mathematics Network, as well as other schools and colleges in your FM Centre's catchment area.

Details



Contacts

It is important that the details for Main Contact, Examinations Officer and Finance Officer are filled in, because these appear on various reports. The other three contacts are at the discretion of the Centre Manager.

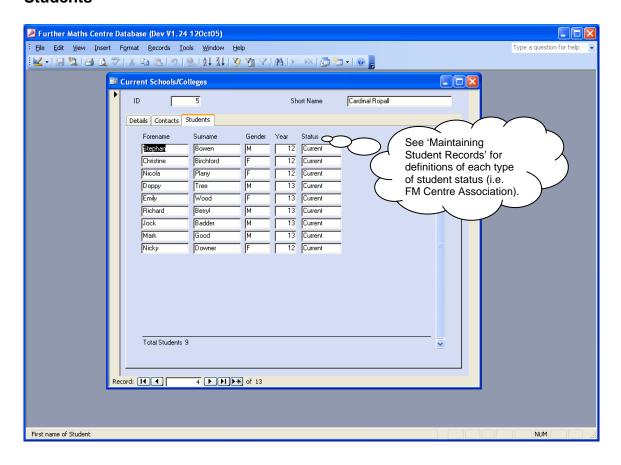


Maintaining Current Schools/Colleges records

This form only displays records of schools/colleges that are currently tutoring students via the Further Mathematics Network.

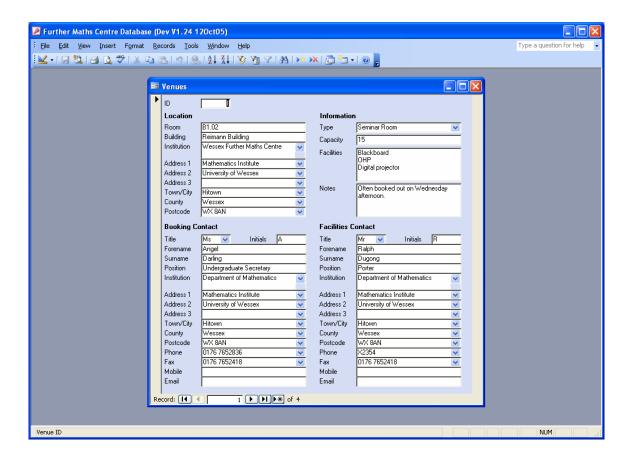
The form is very similar to that for all schools/colleges, however it includes a subform listing the students from the school/college, accessed by selecting the Students tab.

Students



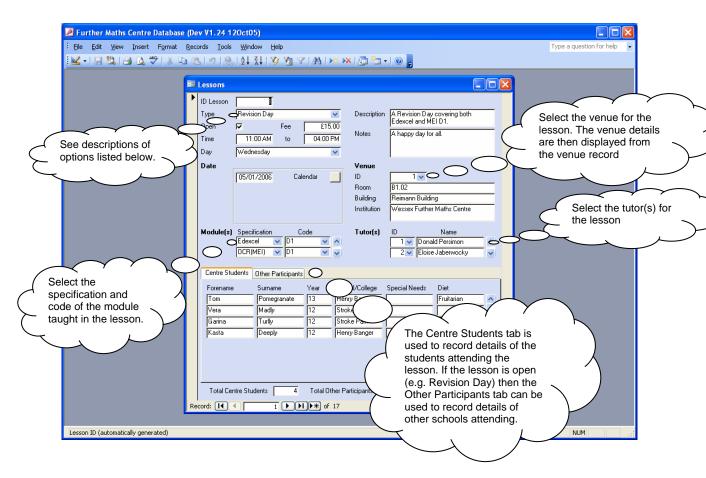
Maintaining Venue records

The Venues form allows you to maintain records of venues that you are using for tuition, or may wish to use for tuition in the future.



Maintaining Lesson records

The Lessons form enables you to add, amend and delete lesson records.



The different options that can be selected for Type are as follows:

Weekly

One lesson per week during the school term.

Fortnightly A

One lesson per fortnight using schedule A (the FM Centre decides the actual dates for this schedule).

Fortnightly B

One lesson per fortnight using schedule B (i.e. alternates with schedule A).

Occasional

One or more ad hoc lessons.

Revision Day

A one-off event, usually open to other schools and colleges.

Study Day

A one-off event, usually open to other schools and colleges.

Drop-in session

A regular session where students can drop in and ask the tutor questions.

Other

Any other type of lesson not covered by the above.

Lessons can be deleted once they have reached the end date of the series; however you may wish to retain them as a historical record. Deleting an old Lesson will automatically delete it from all relevant Student records.

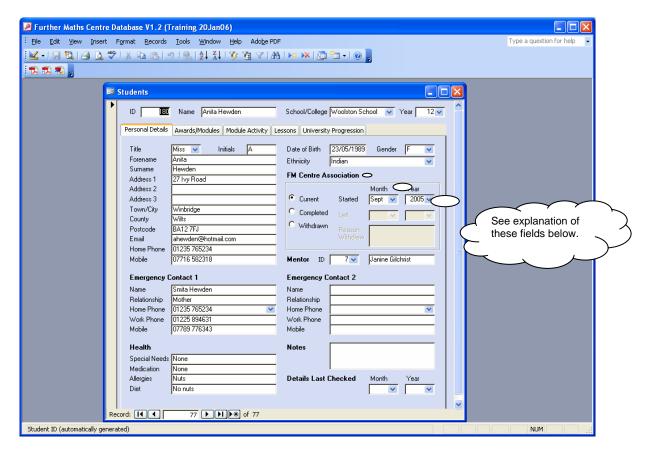
Old Lessons should not be edited to make new ones. Giving a new Lesson the same ID as an old one may result in confusion amongst the Student records.

Maintaining Student records

The paper-based student enrolment form has been designed to correspond as closely as possible to the layout of the Student record form.

It is anticipated that the majority of students will have an email account to which details of logon ids, lesson details and exam details may be sent. It is particularly important that this is entered correctly as e-mail may well be your main method of communicating with students outside lessons. If a student does not have their own email account then they may need to 'buddy' with a second student.

Personal Details



The FM Centre Association area of the form is used to record the student's status:

Current

The student is currently being tutored by the FM Centre or is yet to complete all exams associated with their course of study. If this option is selected ensure that you also enter the month and year the student started.

Completed

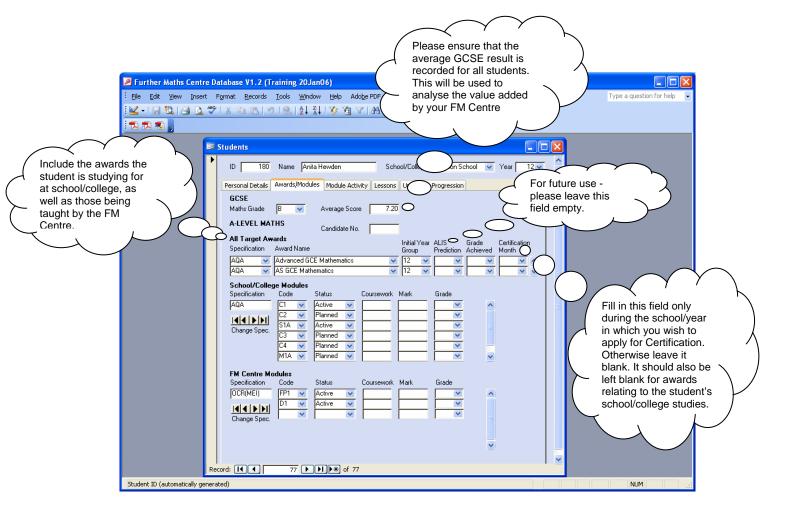
The student has completed their planned course of study with the FM Centre and is no longer being tutored by the Centre. If this option is selected you should enter the month and year that the student left.

Withdrawn

The student stopped ceased their association with the FM Centre before completing their course of study. If this option is selected you should enter the month and year that the student left, and also the reason that the student left.

Awards and Modules

The Award and Module details are used in the Certification reports. These reports need to be sent to the awarding bodies via the relevant schools/colleges before a student can be granted an award. Where the Further Mathematics specification offered by the Further Maths Centre differs from the Mathematics specification offered by the student's school/college, these reports are also used to check that there is no conflict in the modules taken towards each award.



Trouble shooting tip:

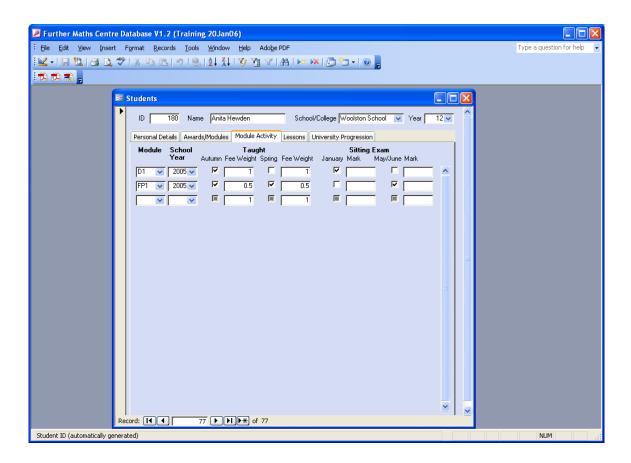
Unable to enter modules codes in the student form

If there are no values to select a module code from, check that the modules taught by your centre have been added to the Modules Offered tab of the Further Maths Centre form. Remember to select the correct specification and to set the tuition at the value you plan to charge (the defaults is £220).

Module Activity

You should record details of all the modules the student has taken through the FM Centre and the results of their examinations. This information is used to produce examination reports, timetables and invoices.

The Fee Weight is used to calculate the amount to be invoiced to the student's school in the Autumn and the Spring terms. In the example below the student is studying FP1 over two terms, with the fee divided equally between each term.



Trouble shooting tip:

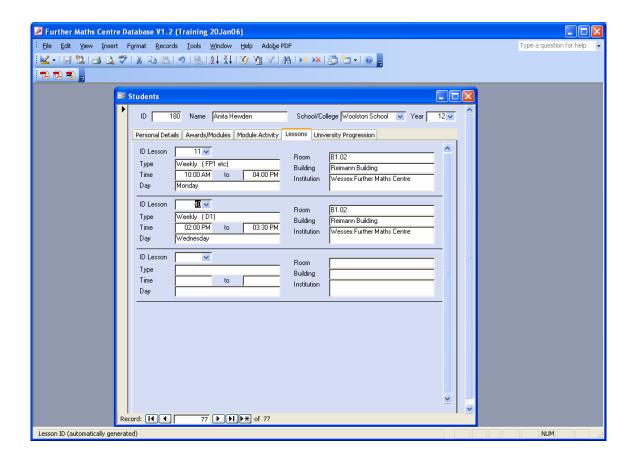
The required module is not displayed in the list of available options

You may be trying to select a module that the student is not currently studying. Check that the module has been entered in the FM Centre Modules area of the Student Awards/Modules tab.

Lessons

Use this tab to record which lessons the student will be attending, including Study and Revision Days. The information builds up to provide a full history of all the lessons the student has attended, though you may wish to delete lessons that have expired – either from this tab or from the Lessons form.

Simply select the required lesson from the list of available options and the other fields will be automatically filled in (from the lesson details you have already entered in the Lessons form). Only the lessons relating to modules the student is currently studying will appear as options.



Trouble shooting tip:

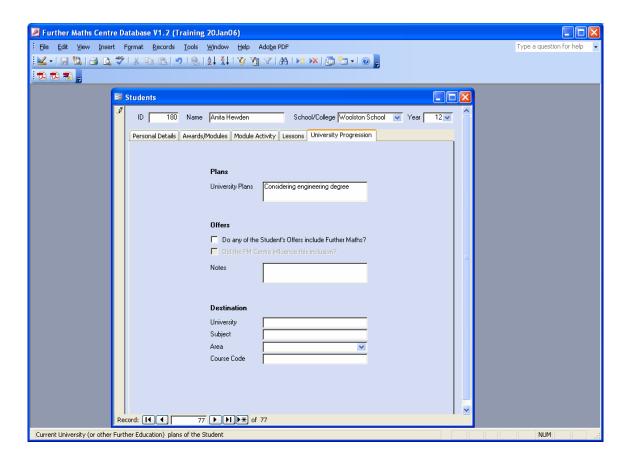
The required lesson is not displayed in the list of available options

You may be trying to select a lesson for a module that the student is not currently studying. Check that the module has been entered in the FM Centre Modules area of the Student Awards/Modules tab. Alternatively, it may be that the end date of the lesson has already passed.

University Progression

You should use this tab to record the student's university plans and progression. Start by entering their initial plans when they start the course, and update the details as their plans firm up and their offers come in. Also record any interventions you may have made with the institutions to which they apply.

This data will enable the FM Network to analyse what our students go on to study, and whether university offers are beginning to include Further Mathematics as a result of the Network's activities.



5. The Administration Cycle

The administration of a Further Mathematics Centre follows an annual cycle based around the academic school/college year. Within this there is a sub-cycle repeated twice in the year dictated by the examination cycle.

The following diagrams above summarise the administration processes and the key correspondence between the FM Centre and the Students, and the FM Centre and the Schools/Colleges. Note that all correspondence associated with examinations (e.g. examination entries, certification requests, etc) are exchanged with Schools/Colleges. The Further Mathematics Centre should have no need to contact the Awarding Bodies directly.



Further Mathematics Centre



Students

Administration

Schools

Agreement (L-FMN017) September Request student data (LR) Enrolment forms (L-FMN008) Add staff and lessons Add students and their Student data (L) modules and lessons Personal timetable (ER) Lesson timetable (LR) Confirm student records (LR) October Request examentry (LR) Update student details Confirmed student details (L) Request certification (LR) Revision Day details (E) November Revision Day details (LR) Invoice for tuition - via FH (LR) Check examination entry (ER) December Personal timetable (ER) Lesson timetable (LR) January **EXAMINATIONS** Update student module Confirm student records (LR) and lessons details Confirmed student details (L) February Request examentry (LR) Update student details

Key

E = E-mail

ER = E-mail based on database report

L = Paper based letter or form

LR = Letter based on database report via FH = Via Fund Holder

Capitals = general activity not actioned via database.

Request certification (LR)

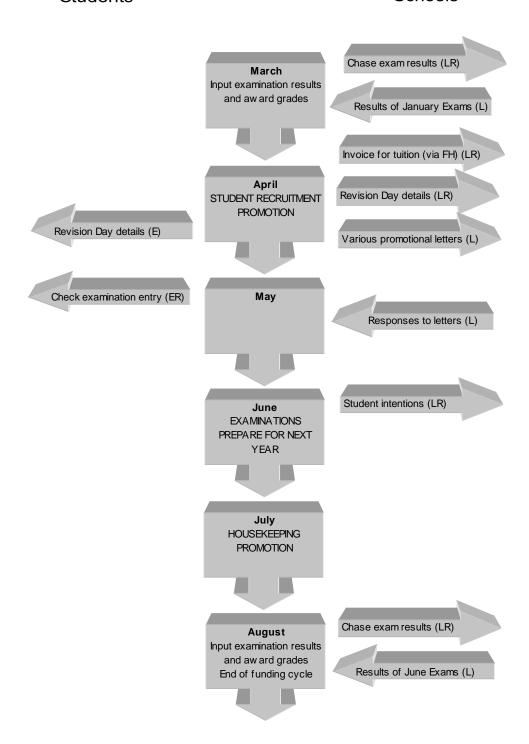
(including leavers' plans)



Further Mathematics Centre Administration



Schools



6. Reports

The database provides many reports that extract data and present it as a list or in the form of a letter or fax for corresponding with schools/colleges or students.

To run a report, simply select the required option from the menu. You can then print the report or export it to Word where you may edit it as required. To export the report to MS Word, select the Word icon from the toolbar.

Select the Close Window icon to close the report and return the menu.

Financial reports are described in the section on Finance, included later in this document.

Trouble shooting tips:

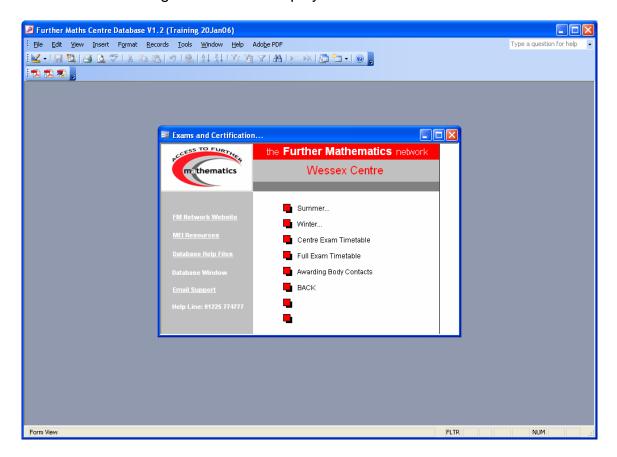
FMN Logo lost when reports are exported to Word

It is not possible to fix this issue. To get around it we suggest you print on headed notepaper, or copy the text of the report to the electronic version of headed paper before printing it.

Report is not being produced for a particular school/college Check that a Centre Contact has been added to the school/college.

Examination and Certification reports

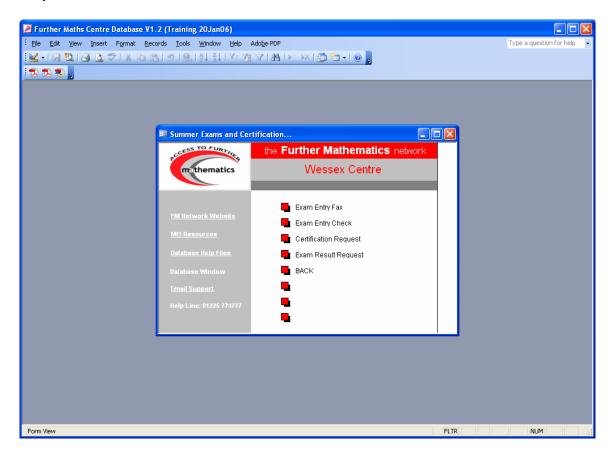
To access these reports select the Exams and Certification option from the Main Menu. The following menu is then displayed.



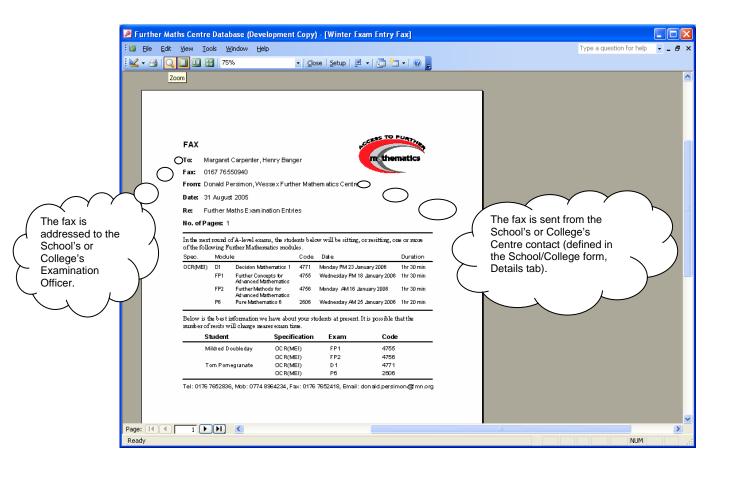
Exam Entry Fax

This report is a fax to the Examinations Officer in each school/college reminding them to enter your Further Mathematics students for module examinations.

Select the required option: Winter for January examinations, or Summer for May/June examinations.

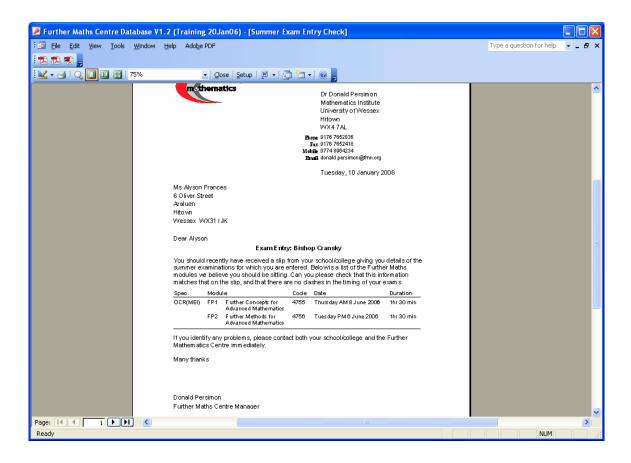


Then select the Exam Entry Fax option.



Exam Entry Check

This report is a letter to each student advising that they should have recently received a slip providing details of the examinations they are taking at the next sitting. It tells them to check that the details on the slip match the details included in the letter, and to let both their school/college and the Further Mathematics Centre know if the details are not correct.

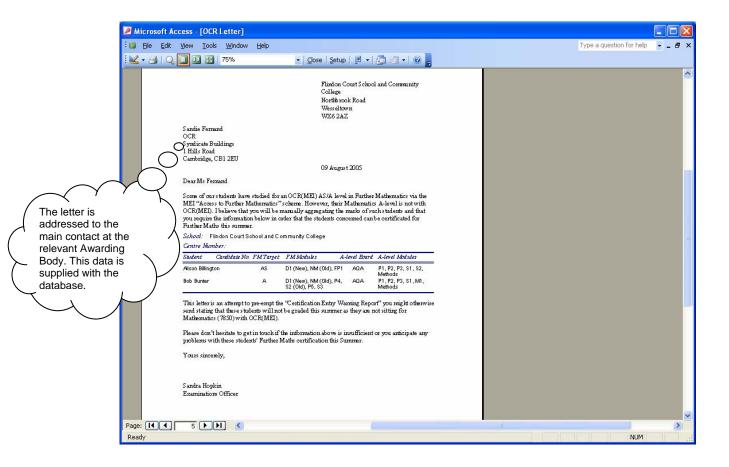


Certification Request

This is a letter created on behalf of schools/colleges for them to send to the relevant Awarding Body to request aggregation and certification for students due to complete their awards at the next examination sitting. The letter lists all of the modules that the students have taken and serves as a means of verifying with the Awarding Body that the module combinations are valid.

This letter should be sent to the school/college for the Examinations Officer to sign and send to the Awarding Body.

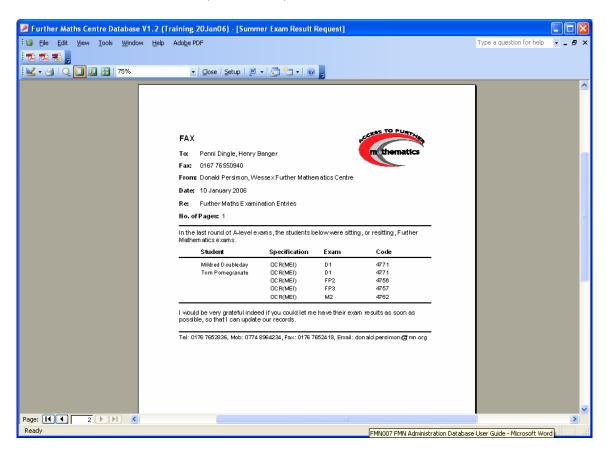
To run the report, select the Certification Request option from the Summer or Winter Examination menu (see above).



Exam Results Request

This is a fax to the Main Contact at each school/college asking them to provide the FM Centre with the module examination results for the last sitting and the Award Grades for students who have recently been certificated for an Award.

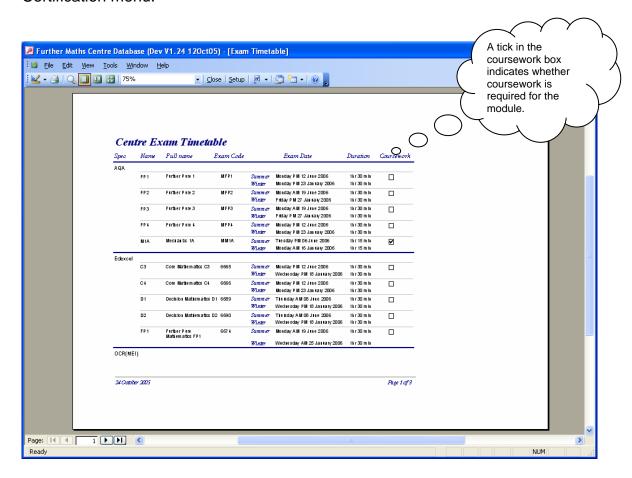
To run the report, select the Exam Result Request option from the Summer or Winter Examination menu (see above).



Centre Exam Timetable

This report lists details of all examinations that are relevant to the Further Mathematics Centre (i.e. those relating to the Specifications and Modules selected in the Modules Offered tab of the Further Maths Centre Data Entry form).

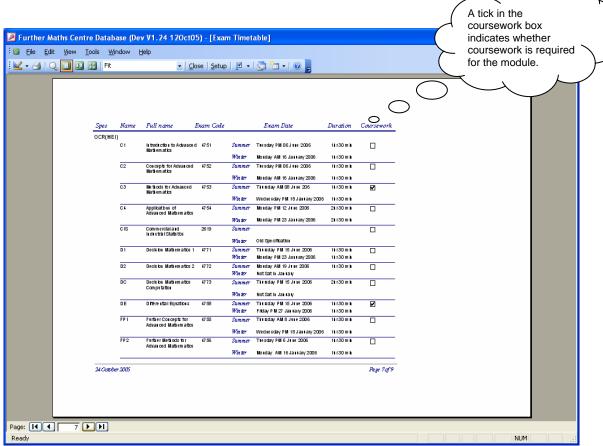
To run this report select the Centre Exam Timetable option from the Exams and Certification menu.



Full Exam Timetable

This report lists all of the examination details held in the Administration Database (i.e. all modules for all specifications).

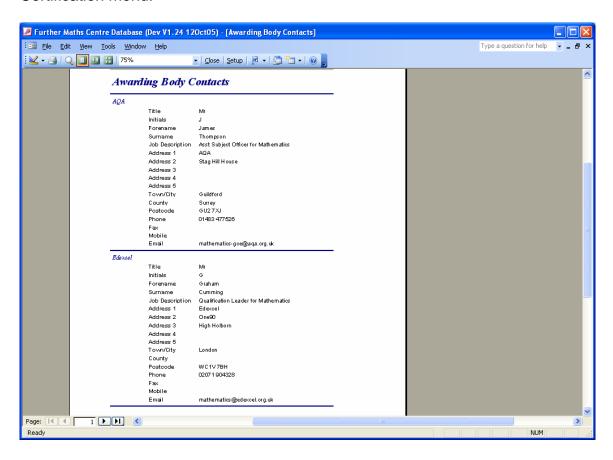
To run this report, select the Full Exam Timetable option from Exams and Certification menu.



Awarding Body Contacts

This report provides contact details for the four specifications available (i.e. AQA, Edexcel, OCR and OCR (MEI)).

To run this report, select the Awarding Body Contacts option from Exams and Certification menu.

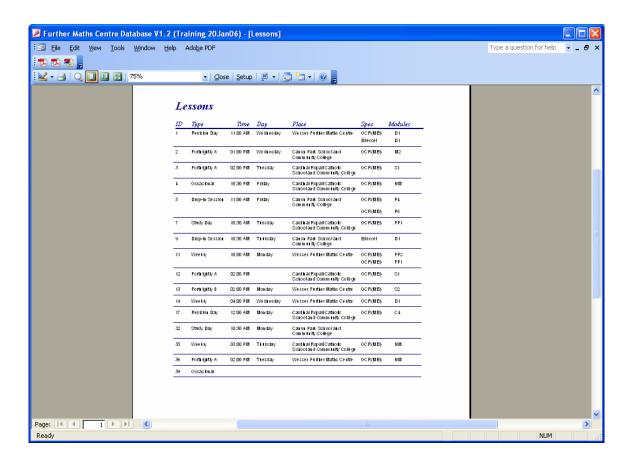


Lesson Reports

Lesson List

This report provides a list of all the lessons recorded on the database.

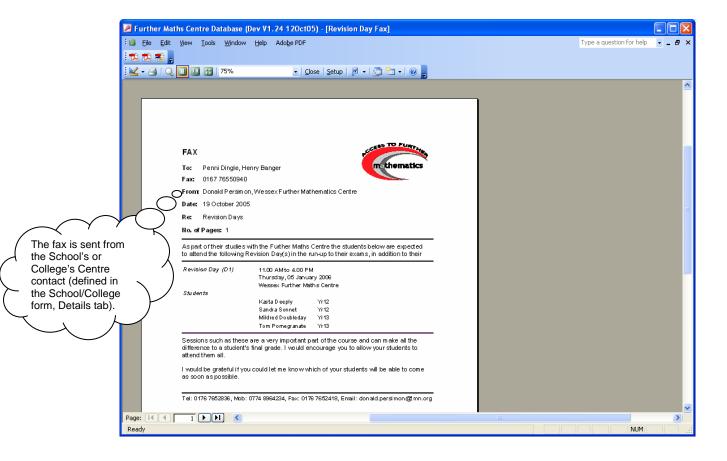
To run this report, select the Lessons option from the Main menu, and then select the Lesson List option.



Timetable (Schools/Colleges)

This is a fax to the Main Contact at each school/college advising them of the dates, times and venues of the lessons that their students will be attending.

To run this report select, select the Lessons option from the Main menu, then select the Timetable (Schools/Colleges) option.

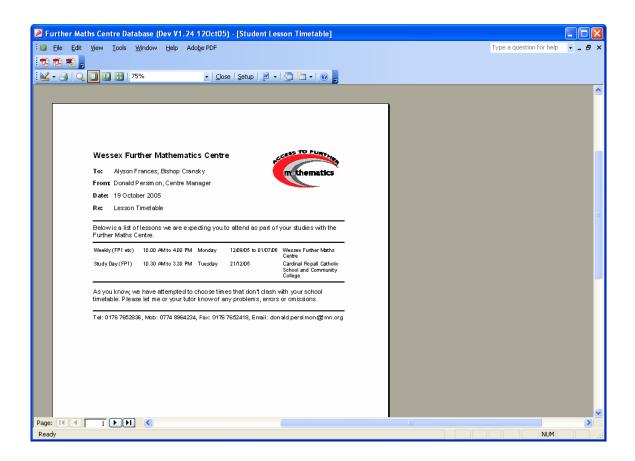


Timetable (Students)

This is a memo to students advising them of the dates, times and venues of the lessons they are required to attend.

It is identical to the Lesson Timetable report described under the Students Reports section below.

To run this report, select the Lessons option from the Main menu, and then select the Timetable (Students) option.



Trouble shooting tip:

There is no student data in the timetable report

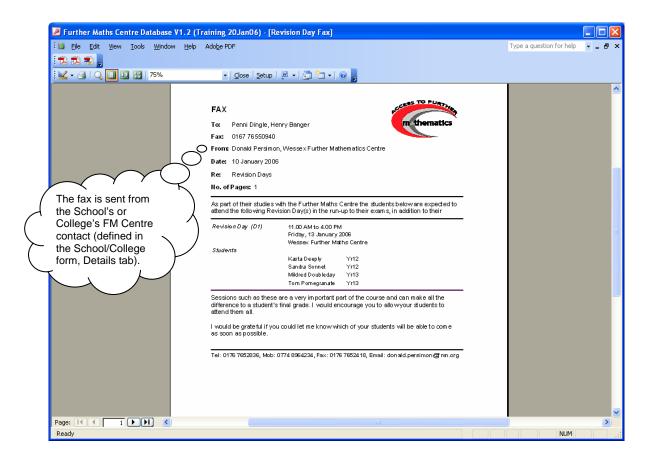
Check the following

- The student's School/college has a Centre Contact entered so that the timetable memo has someone to come from.
- The student's lessons have been entered correctly
- The student's lessons have the correct start and end dates entered in the Lessons form (lessons that have finished will not be entered on the timetable).

Revision Day Fax

The Revision Day Fax report produces a fax to send to the Main Contact in each of the current schools/colleges informing them of any forthcoming Revision Days and advising them which students need to attend.

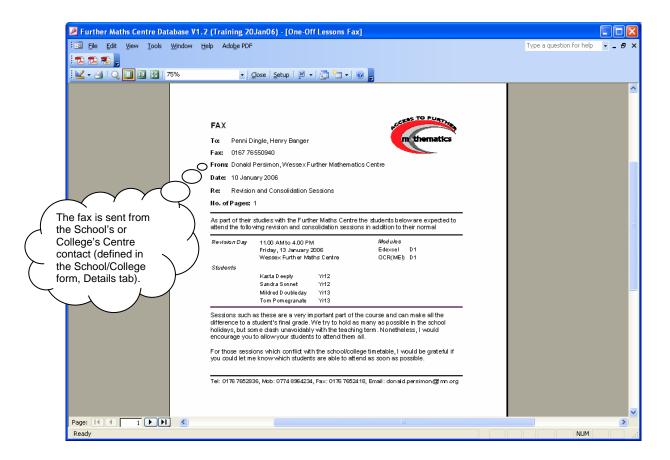
To run this report select, select the Lessons option from the Main menu, then select the Revision Day Fax option.



One-Off Lesson Fax

The One-Off Lesson Fax report is similar to the Revision Day Fax report. It produces a fax to send to the Main Contact in each of the current schools/colleges informing them of any forthcoming Revision Days, Study Days or Drop-in Sessions and advising them which students need to attend.

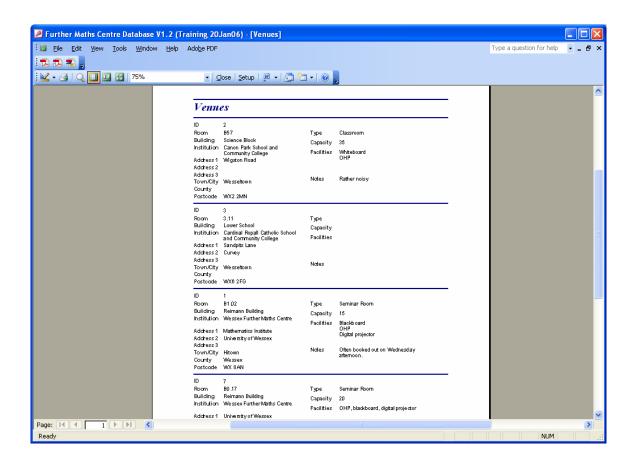
To run this report select, select the Lessons option from the Main menu, then select the One-Off Lesson Fax option.



Venues

This report provides a summary of the venue data.

To run this report select, select the Lessons option from the Main menu, then select the Venues option.

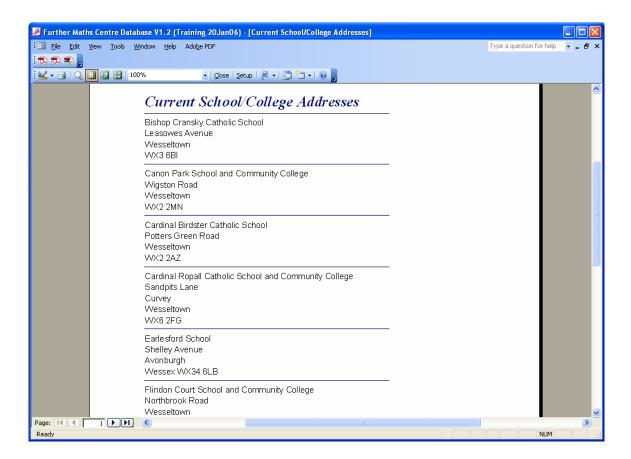


Schools and Colleges Reports

This series of reports list the addresses of selected schools and colleges. There are four versions of this report; all are accessed from the Schools/Colleges option in the Main menu.

Current

This report provides details of Current schools and colleges, i.e. those that have students that are currently studying with your FM Centre.



Registered

This report provides details of schools and colleges that have registered with your Further Mathematics Centre. These schools and colleges will have expressed an interested in the FM Network by completing a registration form and will each have an individual school/college username for accessing the MEI Web Resources.

The report is similar to the example for Current Schools/Colleges above.

Potential

This report provides details of schools and colleges in your area that you have recorded on the database because you think they may become involved with your Further Mathematics Centre in the future (e.g. schools/colleges that you may want to invite to a launch).

The report is similar to the example for Current Schools/Colleges above.

Withdrawn

This report provides details of schools and colleges that have, at least for the time being, stopped sending students to your Further Maths Centre.

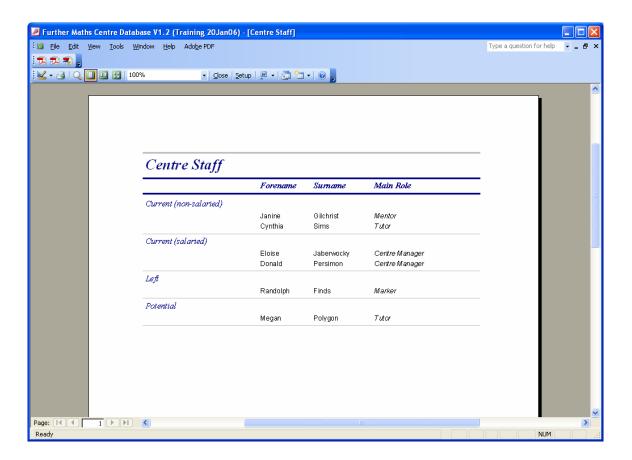
The report is similar to the example for Current Schools/Colleges above.

Staff Reports

Staff List

This report provides a list of the staff recorded on the database, along with their status and their main role within the FM Centre.

To run this report select, select the Staff option from the Main menu, then select the Staff List option.



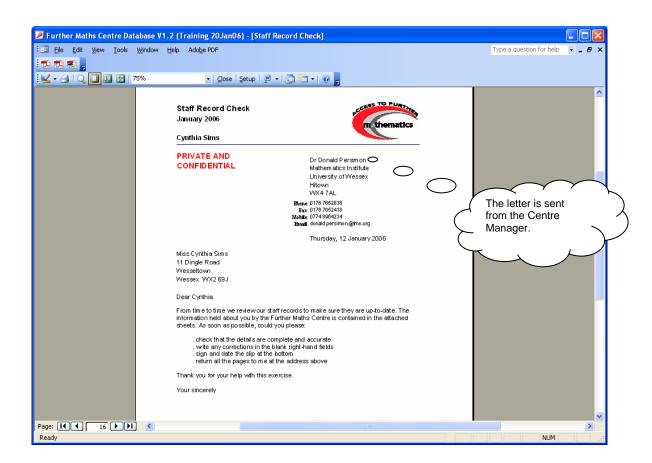
Record Check

This is a letter to each member of the FM Centre staff from their "line manager", i.e. the Centre Manager to whom they are responsible. It asks them to confirm whether the details currently recorded on the database are correct. The report lists the full contents of their record.

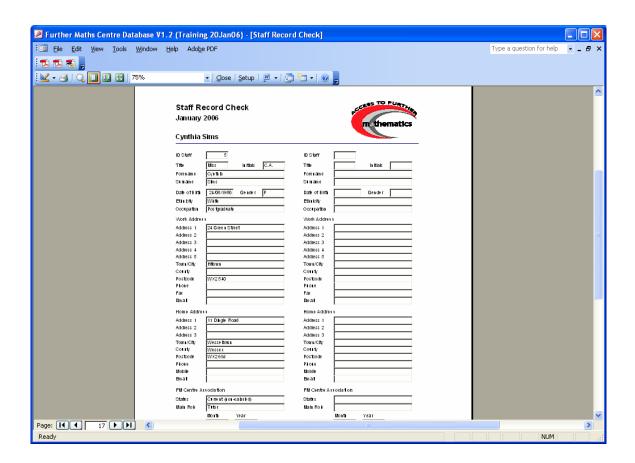
The member of staff is asked to amend the details, sign the form and return it to the Further Mathematics Centre Manager. On receipt of the form, any corrections should be applied to the database as soon as possible. This exercise is a requirement of the Data Protection act and should be conducted on a suitably regular basis.

To run this report select, select the Staff option from the Main menu, then select the Staff Record Check option.

This report has three pages. The first page is a covering letter with instructions to the member of staff:

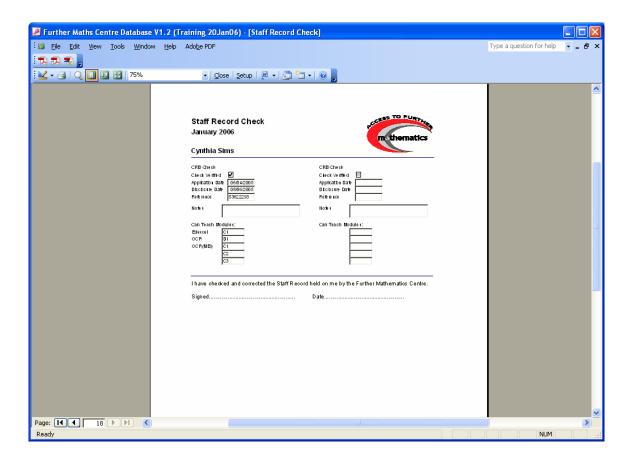


Subsequent pages show the details held on the database, and provide space for the member of staff to record any corrections or insert missing details. Here is an example of one:



The member of staff can write any corrections or additional details in the empty spaces on the right of the form.

On the last page the member of staff is asked to sign the sheet confirming that their details are correct.

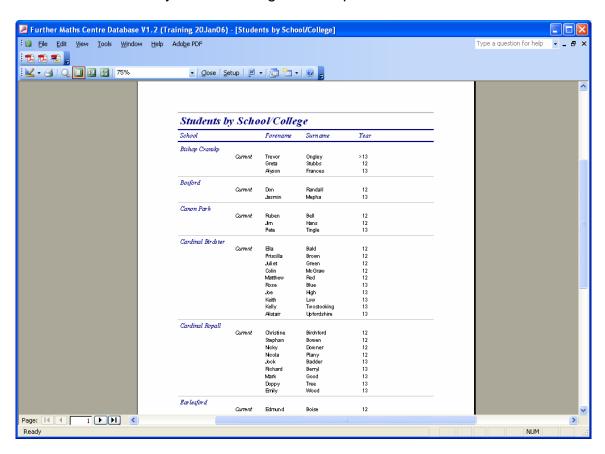


Student Reports

Students by School/College

This report provides a simple list of students by school/college.

To access these report select the Students option from the main menu, and then select the Students by School/College menu option.



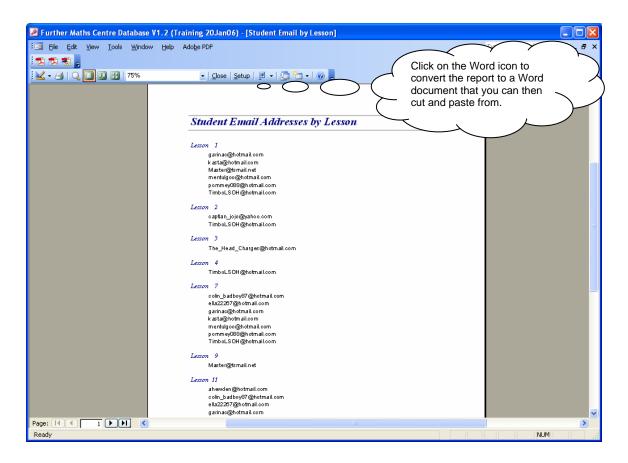
Student Email Address Lists

Four reports are provided to list student emails addresses by the following criteria:

- Lesson
- Current Module
- School/College
- Year

To access these lists select the Students option from the main menu. The Email Lists menu is then displayed. Select the required option.

Here is an example of student e-mail addresses by Lesson



If you select the Word Office Link option from the tool bar the reports will be exported to Word and you can then 'cut and paste' the addresses into an e-mail group or distribution list.

Lesson Timetable

This report is identical to the report Timetable (Students) report described under the Lessons Reports section above.

To access this report select the Students option from the main menu, and then select the Lesson Timetable report.

Trouble shooting tip:

There is no student data in the timetable report

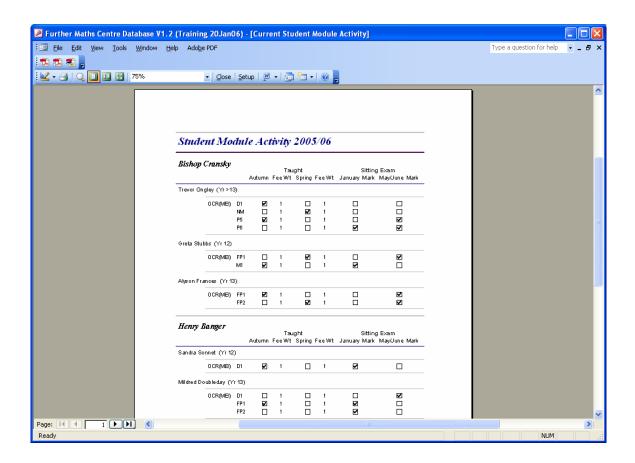
Check the following

- The student's School/college has a Centre Contact entered so that the timetable memo has someone to come from.
- The student's lessons have been entered correctly
- The student's lessons have the correct start and end dates entered in the Lessons form (lessons that have finished will not be entered on the timetable).

Module Activity

This report provides a summary, by school/college, of the current modules being studied by students and their planned examination sittings.

To access this report select the Students option from the main menu, and then select the Module Activity report.



See the section on Student Module Activity data entry for an explanation of these fields.

Exam Entry Check

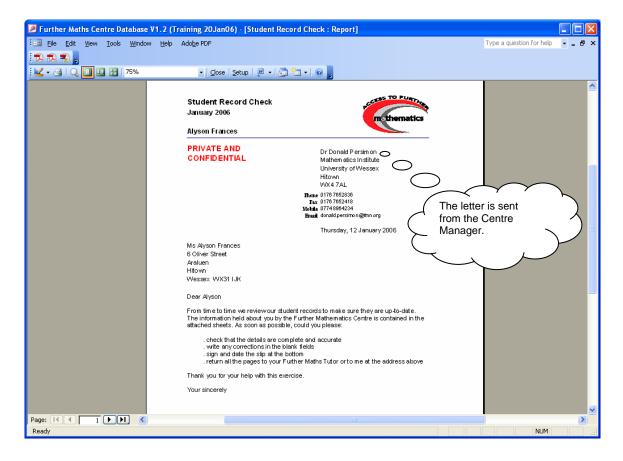
This is the same report that is produced using the Exam Entry Check options under the Summer and Winter options in the Exams and Certification menu. Please refer to the relevant sections above for details of the report.

Student Record Check

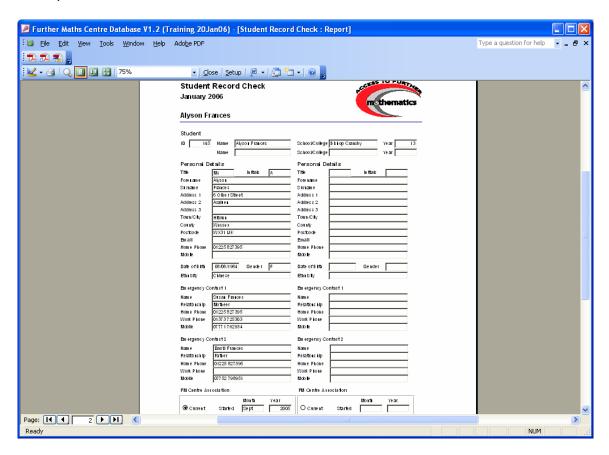
This is a letter to students asking to confirm whether the details currently recorded on the database are correct. The reports lists the full contents of each student's record including details of the modules that they are taking with their own school and through the Further Mathematics Network, and details of their plans for the future.

Students are asked to amend the details, sign the form and return it to the Further Mathematics Centre. On receipt of the form, any corrections should be applied to the database as soon as possible. This exercise is a requirement of the Data Protection Act and should be carried out on a suitably regular basis.

This report has many pages. The first page is a covering letter with instructions to the student:

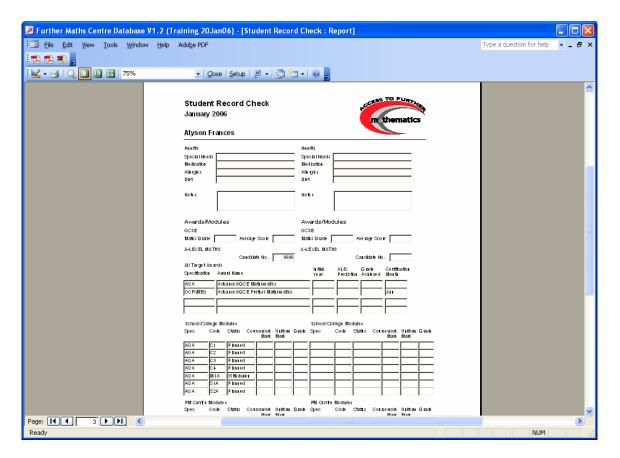


Subsequent pages show the details held on the database, and provide space for the student to record any corrections or insert missing details. Here is an example of one:



The student can write any corrections or additional details in the empty spaces on the right of the form.

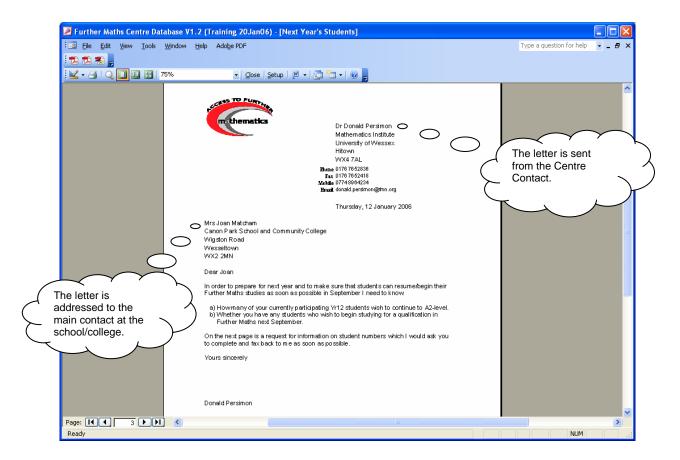
On the last page the student is asked to sign the sheet confirming that their details are correct:



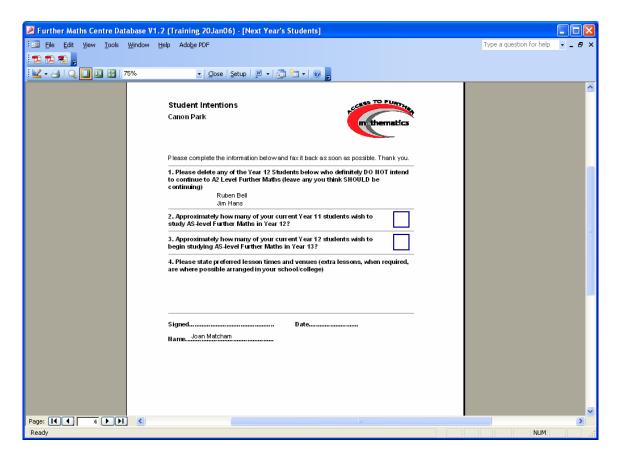
Student Intentions

This is a letter to the Main Contact in each of the current schools and colleges, providing details of arrangements for the following September, and asking them to provide numbers of new and continuing students

The first page is a covering letter:



The second page of the report is a form for the school/college to complete and return:



7. Mail and E-Mail Merge

MS Word Mail Merge and E-mail Merge enable you to use the data in your FM Centre database to create your own letters, faxes and emails. Before using these features, it is recommended that you make the following change to your Microsoft Word settings:

Open Word, select Tools I Options | General and tick the box saying 'Confirm Conversion at Open'. This allows you to choose the way you want to read your mail-merge data.

Mail merge

Mail merge is a powerful Microsoft feature that enables you to merge data from an MS Access database (or other data source such MS Excel) with a MS Word document. This is useful if you want to send a letter (e.g. a mail shot re a meeting publicizing your FM Centre) to a large number of people. You can include data from database record within the Word document (e.g. addressee name and address).

How to run a mail merge

- 1. If you want to use an existing MS Word document for the mail merge then open it up in MS Word, otherwise open a new document.
- 2. From the main menu select Tools>Letters and Mailings>Mail Merge.

Make sure the Letter option is selected on the top right hand side of the Mail Merge panel, then at the bottom click 'Next: Starting document'.

In the new panel, make sure the 'Use current document' option is selected at the top, then click 'Next: Starting document' at the bottom.

Make sure the 'Use an existing list' option is selected at the top of the panel and then Browse... for the database from which you wish to select the data.

A box titled Confirm Data Source will appear. From the 'Open data source' options choose:

MS Access Database via DDE (*.mdb;*.mde) which will probably be the second item in the list. Click OK. The normal database Logon box for your database should now appear.

Select the table/query on which you want to base the merge. The Logon box will appear again to give you access to the data.

Trouble shooting tip:

Opening the 'data source' via this method fails

This may hint at some incompatibility between your software applications (e.g. are you running different versions of Access and Word?). In any case, if your mail or email merge fails at this point, contact the National Administrator who may be able to provide a solution.

- 3. Select the records you want to include in your mail merge. The Select All option can be used to easily select all of the records in the table or query. Click on OK when you have selected the required records, then select the 'Next: Write your letter' option at the bottom of the screen/panel.
- 4. Having written your letter, position your cursor at a point where you want to insert a database field. You can add individual fields by clicking the 'More items...' option and inserting the fields you want.

You can also add whole blocks such as the recipient's address. To add an address block, select the 'Address block...' option and chose the required format from the pop-up screen. You will need to use the 'Match fields' button to match your database fields to the address fields.

A greeting line can be added in a similar way: simply position the cursor, then select the 'Greeting Line option...'.

You may want to add other database fields to the main body of the letter. To do this position the cursor then select the More items option and choose the field you want to add (e.g. Full School Name).

When you have finished adding database fields to the document select the 'Next: Preview your' letters option at the bottom of the screen.

5. You can now view each letter in turn using the Recipient left and right arrows. Use the record selection and Exclude record options to remove individual letters if required.

If you want to make further changes to the Letter, select the 'Previous: Write your letter' option at the bottom of the screen/panel.

When you are happy with your set of letters, select the 'Next: Complete merge' option and print your letters.

You can edit individual letters by clicking the 'Edit Individual letters...' option on the final panel.

Address labels can be created in a similar way.

E-mail Merge

This tool is similar to the MS Mail Merge feature, enabling you to send the same e-mail message a large number of people. As for Mail Merge, you can include database fields in the content of your message.

Unfortunately it is not possible to add an attachment to an email merge in Word 2003 (though you can download third party software from the internet to do this). If you want to include a file you may be able to get round this by inserting the file into the document

How to run an e-mail merge

If you haven't used email merge before it's a good idea to carry out some trials before you run this live. You can set MS Outlook to not send messages. To do this go into Outlook, select the Tools option from the main menu, then select Options, Mail Setup, Send/Receive and remove the tick from 'Send immediately when connected'. You will probably want to set it back when you've finished your trial, otherwise sent messages will just sit in your Outbox unless you click the Send/Receive button.

- 1. If you want to use an existing MS Word document for the mail merge then open it up, otherwise open a new document.
- 2. From the main menu select Tools>Letters and Mailings>Mail Merge.
- 3. On the right hand side of the screen, click on the 'E-mail messages' option, then select the Next: Starting document option at the bottom of the screen.
- 4. Click on the Use current document option, then select Next: Select recipients.
- 5. Click on the Use an existing list option and use the Browse... option to select the database you want to use data from. In the 'Confirm Data Source' box, choose 'MS Access Databases via DDE (*.mdb; *.mde)' then Click OK. The usual Logon box for your database should now appear.
- 6. Next select the table or query that you want to use data from (e.g. select the query 'Potential Schools/Colleges'). The Logon box will appear again to give

- you access to the data. After entering your username and password a list of the available records will be displayed.
- 7. Select the records you want to include in your mail merge. The Select All option can be used to easily select all of the records in the table or query. Click on OK when you have selected the required records, then select the 'Next: Write your letter option' at the bottom of the screen.
- 8. Enter or amend the message as required. Position your cursor at a point where you want to insert a database field then click the 'More items...' option and insert the field you want.
- Select the Preview option. This will show you what the email messages will look like. You can scroll through the records using the left and right arrows. If you have included any date fields it's a good idea to check that the format is correct.
- 10. Select 'Complete the Merge' option. Select the 'Electronic mail' option and match 'To:' to the required Email field in the database, and enter a suitable subject for the message.
- 11. Finally take a deep breath and click OK when you are sure that everything is correct.
- 12. If you have switched off the 'Send immediately when connected' option in MS Outlook you can check the e-mail messages in your Outbox. If they are not correct they can be deleted. Otherwise you can send them by clicking the Send/Receive button.

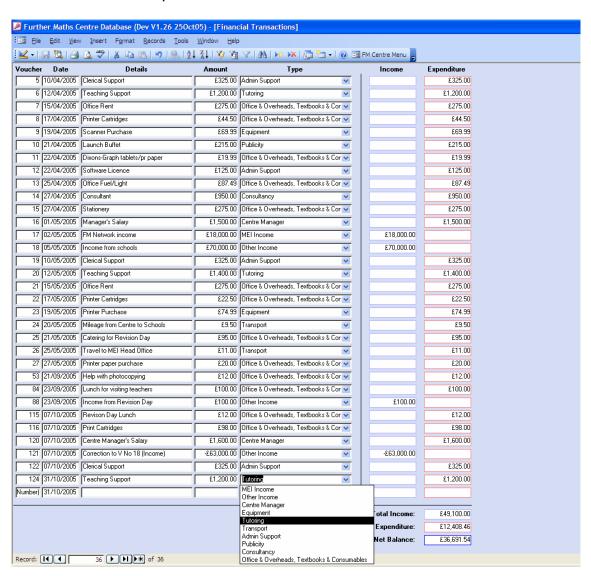
You may find the following provides some very helpful instructions on using e-mail merge http://office.microsoft.com/en-gb/assistance/HA011464811033.aspx.

8. Financial Record Keeping

Input Financial Transactions

To input a financial transaction to the database select 'Data Entry' from the main menu and then the 'Financial Transactions' option from the following screen.

The voucher number and date will be automatically updated. Brief details of the source and nature of the transaction and the full amount must be entered in the relevant fields in the next available blank line and the type of transaction must be selected from the drop down box as shown in the screenshot below.

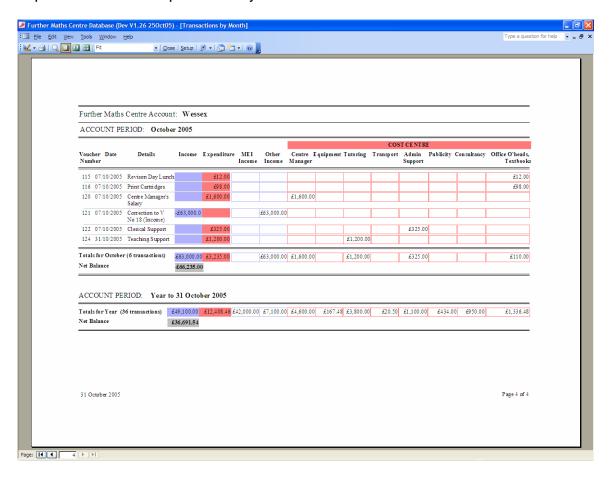


Where individual payments include more than one type of cost centre, separate transactions should be entered for each type. Transactions can only be entered and altered during the current month (to ensure consistency with the National Centre's aggregated figures). If an error is discovered after the end of the month in which the transaction was entered then a separate correcting transaction will be required. This should be entered in the same format and with reference to the original voucher number.

Financial Transactions by Month Report

At the end of each month a printout of the Transactions by Month report should be produced for the current month. To obtain this report select 'Finances' from the main menu and then the 'Financial Transactions by Month' option from the following screen.

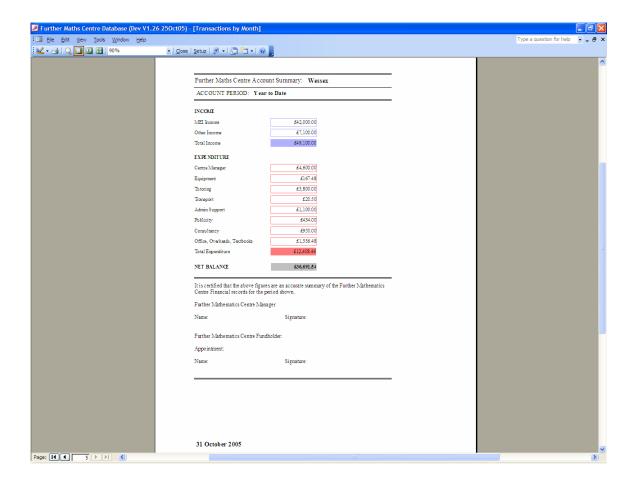
A table for each month will be displayed and can be scrolled for preview before printing as shown in the screenshot below. The table for the current month including the totals for the year to date should be printed and retained as a separate record of expenditure by cost centres.



Financial Account Summary Certificate

At the end of each academic term an Account Summary Certificate is to be produced. To obtain this certificate select 'Finances' from the main menu and then the 'Financial Account Summary' option from the following screen.

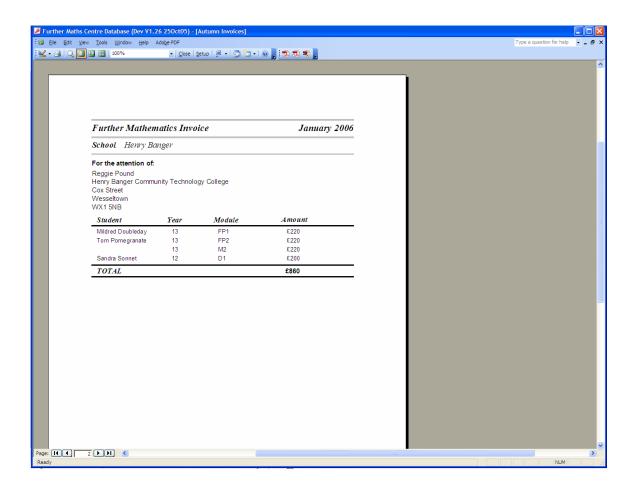
A table for each month will be displayed and can be scrolled for preview with the final table displayed being for the year to date as shown in the screenshot below. This must be printed, signed and submitted to the Further Mathematics Network Office as part of the end of term report.



Invoices Report

A report detailing invoices to be raised for the previous term's tuition for each current school/college can be produced according to the information held within the database. This contains the name and address of the Finance Officer or Bursar in each school/college so it is clear to whom invoices from you or your fund holder should be addressed. To obtain the invoices select 'Finances' from the main menu and then the 'Invoices Spring' or 'Invoices Autumn' option as appropriate from the following screen.

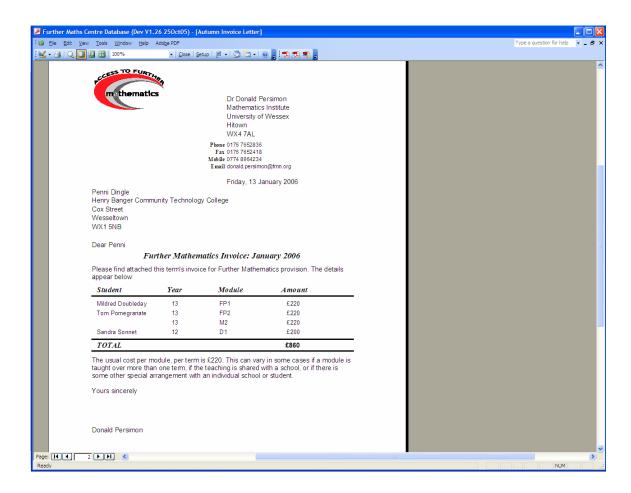
The details required for each invoice will be displayed and can be scrolled for preview before printing as shown in the screenshot below.



Invoices Letter

A letter from the relevant Centre Manager to inform the Main Contact at each school/college of the details of each invoice can also be produced. To obtain the letters select 'Finances' from the main menu and then the 'Invoice Letter Spring' or 'Invoice Letter Autumn' option as appropriate from the following screen.

A letter for each school will be displayed and can be scrolled for preview before printing as shown in the screenshot below.



9. Operating procedures

Initial operation

At present each FM Centre is using a local copy of the database which is not linked to the National Centre. This means that Centres are responsible for taking their own backups and will need to e-mail a copy of their database to the National Centre at the end of each month.

Taking backups

You should take a copy of your database for safe keeping at least once a day.

If your database is held on your institution's network then it is possible that this is performed automatically on your behalf, but you will need to confirm this with your IT Support Staff. It is also worth checking how easy it is to restore your database and how far back you would be able to restore to.

If you are keeping the database on a stand-alone machine then you should copy it to a removable storage medium (e.g. cd, USB stick) and take it off-site for safe keeping. It is recommended that you keep each back-up copy for at least two weeks before over-writing it; this will enable you to restore a version of the database that is up to two weeks old.

Making returns

Immediately after the end of each calendar month please take a copy of your database, zip-up the file and e-mail it to Dave Griffiths (Dave.Griffiths@mei.org.uk). There is no need to include the security file.

To zip-up the file:

- 1) Right click on the file in the folder.
- 2) Select the 'Send to' option, followed by Compressed (Zipped) Folder. This will zip up the file and place it the same folder as the original file.
- 3) You can then attach the zipped folder to an e-mail.

If you have WinZip installed you can use the option that places the zipped folder in an e-mail message automatically if you prefer.

Integrated operation

Once a sufficient number of Centres are up and running we aim to connect all the FMC Centre databases to a central server, after which:

- Your data will be regularly backed up and available to help us support you.
- The data we need for financial and statistical analysis will be extracted into a National Administration Database.
- The process will be automated; no need to send us data or returns.

10. The National Administration Database

The National Administrative Database holds a summary of student data for statistical analysis, and financial records to enable the FM Network's Financial Accounts to be maintained.

It is planned that in the summer term of 2006, your FM Centre database will be connected directly to the National Administration Database.

11. New software releases

From time to time new versions of the database are released to all FM Centres. It is important that your database is upgraded as soon as possible after you are advised of a new release, to enable the National Centre to support you effectively.

Version Numbering

Each software release will have a unique version number in the format Version x.y, where x is the major version number and y is the minor version number (e.g. Version 2.3). The major version will be increased where the functionality of the new release has changed significantly, the minor version number will be increased where only bug fixes and minor enhancements have been included.

Release content

Each new release of the database will be accompanied by a 'What's New' document that details the changes included in the database since the previous release.

12. Trouble shooting

When you start using the Admin Database you may experience difficulties, perhaps because you can't remember how to perform a process or because you have found a bug in the database.

Support

If you can't remember how to do something please try to find out how to by referring to this guide. There is a direct link to this to the left of the database's main menu.

If you can't find the answer to your query in the User Guide, or if you think there is a problem with the database, then contact the National Team:

Janice Richards <u>Janice.Richards@mei.org.uk</u> 01225 774777

Dave Griffiths <u>Dave.Griffiths@mei.org.uk</u> 01225 774274

We are normally available to help you during normal working hours both term time and in the school holidays.

What do I do if I find a bug?

If you think you have found a fault in the database you should e-mail the National Administrator providing the following details:

- 1. Your name and Further Mathematics Centre
- 2. The Location of the issue (e.g. name of form, table or report)
- 3. The Nature of the issue please provide as much detail as possible, including the details of any records you were using and whether it is possible for you to recreate the problem.
- 4. The current version of the Database in use.
- 5. Severity of the bug indicate the severity of the problem using the values described below:

Major

The problem is preventing you from using the database and there is no practical work around.

Minor

The problem is causing you difficulties but you are able to work around it and can continue to use the database.

Cosmetic

The problem is minor and is not causing you any difficulty in using the database.

The National Administration will record the bug and send you back a reference number. This reference number can be quoted when enquiring of progress on fixing the fault and will be quoted when in the 'What's New' document when the fault is fixed.

What do I do if I have an idea for improving the database?

We welcome your ideas for improving the system. Please e-mail them to us providing your name, Centre and as much detail as possible. As for faults, we will give you a reference number for your suggestion to help you to track its progress and identify it in 'What's New' documents.

13. Getting more out of your Database

If you are familiar with MS Access you can set up your own queries, reports and forms.

There are lots of teach yourself books on MS Access, or and training courses are widely available. If you are looking for a general introductory book then you may find the following book helpful:

'How to Do Everything with Microsoft Office Access 2003' by Virginia Andersen McGraw-Hill/Osborne, ISBN 0-07-222938-1.